

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T NATO 06261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS: SPC MEETING

NOVEMBER 17

REF: USNATO 5618 DTG 161034Z OCT 75

1. AT NOVEMBER 17 SPC MEETING, NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) OBSERVED THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAS NEVER BEEN OUTSPOKEN ON THE TACTICS OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. HIS AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE UK OBSERVATION THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO GET AN INSTRUCTED EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE OPTION III PROPOSAL WITHOUT TELLING THE EAST SOMETHING OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS AUTHORITIES APPRECIATE THE US CONCERN THAT EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF REDUCTIONS. THE NETHERLANDS THEREFORE WISHED TO SUGGEST THAT LANGUAGE MIGHT BE INTRODUCED INTO PARA 5 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TO ENABLE THE AHG TO GIVE THE BROAD OUTLINE OF THE

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ALLIED POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, BUT NOT TO ENGAGE IN A

DETAILED DISCUSSION UNTIL AFTER RECEIPT OF AN INSTRUCTED EASTERN RESPONSE.

2. UK REP (BAILES) SAID THAT SHE DID NOT FIND THIS IDEA VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE UK PROPOSAL, SINCE THE UK ONLY WANTED TO ENABLE THE AHG TO GIVE THE OTHER SIDE THE POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS STATED IN THE DRAFT GUIDANCE, AND THIS IS ONLY AN OUTLINE. UK WOULD NOT WANT TO AUTHORIZE AHG TO USE THE DETAIL IN THE POSITION PAPER AT AN EARLY DATE.

3. US REP (MOORE) OBSERVED THAT GIVING THE OTHER SIDE AN OUTLINE OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS WOULD FOCUS EASTERN ATTENTION ON THIS ISSUE, WOULD RAISE ADDITIONAL EASTERN QUESTIONS, AND WOULD THUS INEVITABLY SIDETRACK THE NEGOTIATION INTO THE DETAIL OF EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. PRESENTATION TO THE EAST OF SUCH AN OUTLINE AT AN EARLY STAGE COULD ALSO SUGGEST TO THE EAST THE ACCEPTABILITY OF ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS IN ISOLATION FROM A REDUCTION AGREEMENT.

4. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) SAID THAT BELGIUM WOULD NOT WANT TO GIVE THE OTHER SIDE INFORMATION ON THE ALLIED POSITION RE US/SOVIET EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, IN ADVANCE OF AN INSTRUCTED EASTERN RESPONSE, UNLESS THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HE SUGGESTED THAT IN PARA 6 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE (REFTEL), AFTER "THE RESPONSE SHOWS SERIOUS EASTERN INTEREST IN AN AGREEMENT INCORPORATING THE BAISC ELEMENTS AS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 1", THE FOLLOWING PHRASE REPLACE THE REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE: "OR IF IT APPEARS THAT THE EAST DECIDEDLY MAKES SUCH A CONSIDERED RESPONSE DEPENDENT ON KNOWING THE ALLIED POSITION ON LIMITATIONS, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS COULD DRAW UPON THE FOLLIWING IN ORDER TO ANSWER QUESTIONS".

5. US REP SAID THAT THE ALLIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT AN INSTRUCTED RESPONSE TO THEIR IMPORTANT OPTION III REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL, BEFORE GOING INTO EQUIPMENT LIMITATION ISSUES. HE THEREFORE QUESTIONED THE ADVISABILITY OF THE BELGIAN PHRASE. UK REP SUPPORTED THE UK'S OWN LANGUAGE ON THIS POINT.

6. NEXT SPC DISCUSSION ON TACTICS OF EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS WILL BE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

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